

Specification Amendments

(a) Please add the following paragraph on page 1 of the application after the title and before the word "Background":

--RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/446259, filed December 20, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. _____, which is the national stage in the United States of International Application No. PCT/EP97/03493, filed July 1, 1997, which claims priority to PCT/EP97/03287, filed June 20, 1997. All priority rights under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120 to and for those applications and the present application are hereby claimed.--

(b) Please cancel the three paragraphs starting at page 6, line 19, and ending at page 7, line 4, and substitute the following:

--In yet another aspect, the present invention concerns (a) monoclonal antibody mAb-4E6 produced by hybridoma Hyb4E6 deposited at the BCCM under deposit accession number LMBP 1660 CB on April 24, 1997, (b) monoclonal antibody mAb-8A2 produced by hybridoma Hyb8A2 deposited at the BCCM under deposit accession number LMBP 1661 CB on April 24, 1997, (c) hybridoma Hyb4E6 deposited at the BCCM under deposit accession number LMBP 1660 CB on April 24, 1997, and (d) hybridoma Hyb8A2 deposited at the BCCM under deposit accession number LMBP 1661 CB on April 24, 1997.

The antibodies used in the assays of this invention are preferably those two (i.e., mAb-4E6 and mAb-8A2) as well as mAb-1H11. The cell line for antibody mAb-1H11 is produced by hybridoma Hyb1H11, which was deposited at the BCCM under deposit accession number LMBP 1659 CB on April 24, 1997.

The BCCM is the Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms authorized by the "Budapest Treaty of 28 April 1977 on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure." Its address is Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms (BCCM), Prime Minister's Services, Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs (OSTC), Rue de la Science 8, B-1000 Brussels,

Belgium. In accordance with The United States Code Of Federal Regulations (“CFR”) (e.g., 37 CFR § 1.808) and The United States Patent And Trademark Office’s Manual Of Patent Examination (“MPEP”) (e.g., § 2410.01), all restrictions on the availability to the public of the deposited material (except as permitted by the CFR and MPEP) will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of any patent issuing from this application or from any related application, including any parent application (see “Related Applications,” above). Furthermore, each of the deposits will be replaced if a viable sample of it cannot be furnished by the BCCM.--